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Crocker said at West Baden that the trusts are ruining this country. He ought to know; he has had no opportunity to forget the criminal enormities of the Tammany ice trust.

R. C. Stephenson, of Rochester, was a Plymouth visitor Thursday. While here he announced his candidacy for republican district chairman to succeed Elmer E. Crocker, of South Bend. Mr. Stephenson is the law partner of George D. Holman and a very able and active worker in the party, whose labors in Fulton county have been productive of much good result. There is no better man in the district for the honorable position he seeks.

When the ablest eastern authorities declare that Indiana's insane hospitals are better than those of the east, when they are copying Indiana's street improvement tax and school-book laws in the best states in the country, no Indian need feel ashamed to answer to the question as to what state he hails from.—South Bend Tribune.

Add to this the admitted fact that Indiana's financial condition is now better than that of any other state in the union and that she has the best life insurance laws in the world.

Wouldn't it be strange if the result of the verdict in the Schley inquiry should bring about the nomination of the admiral as the Democratic presidential candidate in 1904? And yet, not so very strange, either. The Democratic party is usually erratic and inclined to wander off after strange gods. Any glittering political bait tempts it, and any sort of a candidate from a Horace Greeley to a Bryan, or any old kind of a platform, from flat money to free trade, appears to suffice for campaign purposes. Poor Schley! —Mishawaka Enterprise.

Ex-Senator Jonathan W. Crum-packer, of Laporte, has failed of reappointment as territorial judge in New Mexico and will return to his law practice at Laporte. Apropos of this the Indianapolis Sentinel publishes a despatch from Laporte saying:

Judge Crum-packer's friends here state that he will resume the practice of law at this city, and that he will wage a fight on the president when control is sought of the Indiana delegation to the national republican convention in 1904.

Judge Crum-packer will do no such fool thing. He is too big and broad a man not to know the inevitable outcome of pursuing a "sore toe" policy.

The partisans of Admiral Schley are hounding Admiral Sampson to death. This is cowardly and contemptible in the extreme.—Laporte Herald.

If the first statement were true the second would be just. Schley said there was "glory enough for all" and his friends are resisting the effort of a naval clique to deprive him of even a small part. His dignity and self-restraint under the trying ordeal to which he has most unwillingly been subjected are most admirable. It is not Admiral Sampson who is held responsible for the injustice, but the Crowninshield gang. No one doubts that if Sampson had been actually present at the battle of Santiago the outcome would have been exactly the same.

The people are fast realizing that the country has outgrown protection; that for infant industries to still cry for protection at home when they are successfully competing in markets abroad is absurd, for under such circumstances protection only serves to maintain the monopoly and high prices of trusts within the country, while it favors foreigners with low prices at our expense.—Ft. Wayne Journal-Gazette.

This vague and general piece of balderdash is found in various forms in most democratic newspapers nowadays, but none of them ever go into particulars. Surely, if the facts are as they are stated to be a list could be given, or at least some single article could be pointed out, and the tariff rates and market conditions shown in such a way as to sustain the general charge. Something of that sort would be highly instructive, but the truth is that it is impossible to find specific facts in support of the theory. Republicans are not wedded to protection for protection's sake, but for the welfare of the people, and they would reduce or repeal a harmful tariff schedule ruthlessly if its harmfulness could be definitely shown. Ignorant tinkering is too dangerous an experiment for any but democrats and their wild-eyed allies to indulge in.

"I care not what the Filipinos want," said Congressman Shafroth in the Philippine revenue bill debate; "I am only concerned with what the American people want." Substitute "democrats" for "American people" and the exact position of the democrats is stated. They are as indifferent to the real needs of the "little yellow people" as they are to the wants of American negroes. Peanut politics is their great consideration.

There is not the least doubt but Admiral Schley will sit down on any positive attempt to make him a candidate for president, and there is not the least doubt but Gen. Miles will do all in his power to aid the attempt to secure the nomination for that high office for himself. Should Miles get it there is not the least doubt but he will be as badly defeated a man as was his old comrade in arms, Gen. Hancock, in 1880.—South Bend Tribune.

We are not of that little class of timid republicans who are fearful of a congressional investigation of the Schley affair and of the navy department's favoritism and bureaucracy. On the contrary we are inclined to be fearful of the political effect of a refusal to do Schley justice and to expose official wrong-doing. It is true in a way that Schley is vindicated by the character of men ranged against him, but he is also entitled to an honorable record and as the record stands it is not what he deserves. If there is danger that a revelation of the full truth may make him a dangerous presidential quantity in the hands of the democrats, there is also the greater danger that on a refusal to do justice the people may take the matter into their own hands and give him a popular vote of confidence at the polls. The fact is that this talk about Schley as president is simply the talk of democrats without an issue who habitually seek to strengthen their party by tying up with every will-o'-the-wisp that floats into the range of public fancy. If the republican party can be hurt by any disclosure that might be made in an investigation of the navy department, so much the worse for the party and so much the greater the necessity that exists for a good healthy understanding by the people. The question is not one concerned with Schley's personal honor alone—it involves the popular confidence in a great department of government and the people want to know the facts.

NOW FOR THE CANAL.
By the ratification of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty the United States is left with an absolutely free hand to construct and control a canal across the isthmus of Darien. The importance of this consummation can be best appreciated by remembering that it is one thing we have been talking about and working for for nearly fifty years. Valuable as such a canal will be to the commerce of the world, it will be of infinitely more value to the United States in bringing the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the continent nearer together and in greatly strengthening our control of the trade of the Pacific ocean and the Orient. It will also be of immense value in time of war, for, although the United States is pledged to maintain the neutrality of the canal and keep it open for the ships of all nations in time of war, as well as in peace, it will be of far greater value to this country than to any other. The American people have not yet forgotten their anxiety during the memorable voyage of the battleship Oregon from San Francisco to Key West, where she reported to the navy department in time to take part in the battle of Santiago. She left San Francisco March 14, 1898, and made Key West on May 24, making a record unexampled in the history of naval achievement. If there had been an isthmian canal the Oregon would have reached the scene of action in far less time than she did, though she would not have had the record as she now has of being the first United States battleship to cross the equator and perhaps her seamen, whose terms of enlistment expired during her long voyage, would not have been afforded the opportunity of patriotically re-enlisting on board ship. This, however, is but an incident. The immense importance and value of the canal to the United States are too plain for argument, and now that the way is open for its construction there should be no unnecessary delay in beginning the work. It is a case in which the people expect congress to do its duty, regardless of factious opposition or conflicting interests.—Indianapolis Journal.

Publicity is Necessary.

No matter how superior an article may be or how great may be the people's advantage in dealing at a particular store, the proprietor's business will not reach anything like its possibilities unless the public shall be informed of the facts day after day. There can be no large trade without publicity. As to the methods of publicity, all experience shows that newspaper advertising is not only the most direct and effective, but also the cheapest.—Philadelphia Record.

ELKHART TRUTH'S PLATFORM.

Among such other issues as the democratic party may deem wise and essential to public welfare, the Elkhart Truth recommends that the following suggestions be enlarged upon and incorporated in the democratic platforms for the coming national and state campaigns.

National Issues:—Aggressive congressional legislation curbing the power of such industrial, commercial and transportation combines as seek to transact an inter-state business, also compelling them to publish full and comprehensive reports of their affairs every three months in a sufficient number of newspapers to give the public a proper understanding of their business operations.

An intelligent and impartial revision of our tariff laws by competent experts for the purpose of revenue only and the preservation intact of our present American rate of wages.

A discontinuance as soon as practicable of the policy of acquiring territory outside the boundaries of the United States.

State Issues:—A rigid enforcement of our laws taxing the property and business interests of all corporations doing business within the boundaries of the state.

A two cent per mile passenger fare on all railroads within the state limits.

A prohibition of the sale in open markets of all articles manufactured by convict labor that come in competition with the products of free labor.

A law prohibiting the sale in any form of adulterated food products. Also a law forbidding the sale of oleomargarine and its kindred products except as such, also their use in public eating places except when it is properly placarded so that patrons may know what is being furnished to them.

ABANDONING WHEAT

An intelligent Illinois farmer, in a thoughtful article published in Orange Judd Farmer, addresses himself to the question whether or not wheat should be abandoned as a money crop in that state. His discussion and conclusions are of equal interest to Indiana agriculturists. After considering the possible effects of climatic changes he continues:

But there is a change that has come over our land since the days of the early settlers that is not climatic, but which I think cuts a bigger figure in our problem than any other one thing, and that is the loss of fertility through cropping all these years. Find a piece of good virgin soil and, leaving the hessian fly out of the count, is it not fully as safe for a good crop of wheat now as it would have been 50 years ago? If it is, and we must keep trying to grow wheat on our worn and impoverished land, is it not imperative that we fertilize for a wheat crop? Use well-rotted barn yard manure, spread thinly and evenly, and work well into the surface of the seed bed. Or use a good commercial fertilizer drilled in with the wheat, or better still, plan your rotation to have wheat, instead of corn, follow clover.

Just now our farmers are more worried about the hessian fly than any other danger to the crop. Last year the fly and a dry spring ruined the wheat on all poor land, and even on rich land that was seeded early. Sow late and only on well fertilized land. We may thus escape the fall brood and greatly lessen the spring brood. In spring, rich land will send up such strong stems that not every one with a fly grub in it will break down, and there will be less shrunken grain on such stalks. Great damage is sometimes done to the wheat crop by dry weather in April and May. And sometimes wet weather: In June and July plays havoc with the crop.

But the worst thing we encounter in trying to raise wheat is the stinking little chinch bug. If it were not for this foe, in addition to all the rest, we would still indulge in hope and continue to sow wheat regardless of the loss our neighbors have sustained in their average for the last ten years. But the chinch bug is the last straw. We draw the line against chinch bugs. If our neighbor's cattle break into our field and destroy our corn crop, we can make the neighbor pay for it. But when his chinch bugs come over from his wheat field, where they have been propagated, and do us twice as much damage, we are without redress. And if the bugs come from our own wheat field, it is still worse, because they are pretty sure to injure the corn we put out on the wheat ground the next spring. So, my conclusion of the whole matter is—quit the business of wheat growing in central Illinois.

Someone may want to know how to seed to clover and timothy without wheat as a nurse crop. Rye is as good a nurse crop as wheat. I have had the best success with the following plan: Sow as early as possible in spring on well prepared ground, with a drill, two bushels oats and six pounds clover seed, following with the roller if dry. The first days of September sow six pounds timothy seed per acre, and then mow weeds, etc. three or four inches high.

MORTGAGE DEDUCTION LAW

Argument in its Support by Attorney General Taylor.

The brief filed in the supreme court by Attorney General Taylor in defense of the Indiana law for the deduction of mortgages from the tax assessment is a scholarly and powerful argument in behalf of mortgagors. He demonstrates that the deduction provided for in the law is in no sense an exemption; and, further, that the state may tax the value of a mortgage, or any part thereof, to the mortgagee and the remaining interest in the land to the mortgagor. He contends that a tax law is not unconstitutional merely because it lacks somewhat of uniformity in operation, because perfect equality of taxation is an unattainable thing and to insist upon it would defeat all taxation. The brief is concluded as follows:

For fifty years in Indiana, pursuant to statute, ten of millions of dollars of credit have, pursuant to law, escaped taxation, because the owners thereof were burdened with debts. The chief of the bureau of statistics has furnished us with the total of deductions obtained for the year 1900 throughout the state on account of indebtedness, and all from personal credits. These deductions cover the entire state, except six counties, and aggregate \$37,665,133.32. With the additional counties to be heard from, we may assume that forty millions of dollars of deductions will be claimed and allowed from credits alone for 1901 in Indiana.

The deductions on account of mortgage indebtedness for the year 1900 aggregated over thirty-five million dollars. The amount claimed for the year 1901 will approximate forty million dollars. So that the total of deductions on account of credits practically equals the total of deductions that will be claimed on account of mortgage indebtedness. Here are eighty millions of dollars of deductions that we assert must rise or fall together. We can conceive of no principle of law that will relieve one dollar of credits on account of indebtedness that will not at the same time relieve the assessed value of the real estate on account of the mortgage indebtedness.

It is a partial abatement of double taxation. The deduction on account of mortgage indebtedness does not relieve the property from taxation; on the contrary it relieves the tax payers from double taxation.

We have looked in vain for a single decision by a court of last resort in this country that declares a different doctrine. Whenever the value of the mortgage security is taxed, a just valuation would relieve the mortgaged property to the extent of the assessment on said mortgage security. This is the positive statute of some of the states, as above quoted.

On what principle of law can the holder of a mortgage on lots or lands be entitled to a deduction from such mortgage security, because the holder thereof is indebted to some third person, while he who owns the lot or land upon which such mortgage security is based is denied the right to deduct his indebtedness from the very lot or land that furnishes the basis of such mortgage security? Why should the lot owner be denied the right of deduction from his lot, when the note owner who holds a mortgage upon such lot is granted the privilege of deducting all of his indebtedness from the value of such note? No substantial reason can be given.

If the Indiana mortgage deduction law is stricken down the mandate of the constitution will not be complied with which commands that a "just valuation of all property shall be had." Nor will such mandate be obeyed if the lot owner is denied the right that is granted to the note owner. As long as governments are maintained and civil liberty prevails among men taxes will be imposed. We cannot expect these tax laws to be perfect.

The legislature and the legislature alone can correct the evils that experience make manifest.

The tax system is the most perfect which most nearly casts upon every citizen of the state his fair share of the public burdens.

Rural Route Growth.

The last official report concerning the growth of rural free mail delivery is most encouraging. This method of distributing mail in the country started five or six years ago with an appropriation of \$10,000. The first route ran out of Charleston, W. Va. Rural delivery at once became popular, and the appropriation during the past year for this service was \$3,500,000. Next year \$6,250,000 will be asked for. On November 1, 6000 routes were in operation, with one carrier to each route. Each carrier served on an average of 600 patrons. Since the routes were established the amount of matter collected and distributed materially increased. Postoffice officials believe that in a short time the rural routes will support themselves.

Help your wife to get breakfast easy, take home Mrs. Austin's Pancake Flour. Your grocer waits to supply you. 45124914

DECLINE IN CHURCHGOING

For the general decline in church attendance, which affects all the religious bodies of this country, and is beginning to rouse apprehensions in other lands, it is hard to speak consolation. Yet it does not involve any more deterioration of the race. The fact is that life is more complex than it was in the day of church supremacy, and more rich. As a social factor the church must now share its consequence with the concert hall, the theater, and its clergy must divide consequence with cliques of people who form compacts for entertainment; as an educator it does not pretend to rival the schools and colleges that fill the land; as an agent in charity and good works it is second to local government, to societies, to endowed and non-sectarian hospitals, dispensaries, homes, refuges, asylums, while any punitive or disciplinary power it may have once exercised is perforce relegated to courts and correctional commissions. People have more to do than to go to church. They are permitted to do harmless things that the church did not formerly allow. They are encouraged, as never before, in reading and exercise and self-improvement. They quite understand the possibility of an unreligious morality. And that pastor who merely plods along the ancient, dusty paths, thrashing out such straw as he hurls from the fields by the way, is not going to gather a large following. The successful minister is a man who thinks, investigates and is as big as the Bible, rather than the man who stands for half a dozen texts thereof. But there is more than a hope of the restoration of faith. The signs are already visible. The decline of the church was due to its narrowness. It must and will broaden. It must put right before precept, and true living before denominational recalcitrance. It will arise anew, better for its trials, more firmly based on an ethical foundation, more vigorous in good works, more cheerful, tolerant and wise. It will regain its place, because men are making trial of the non-religious activities and they do not serve; can never satisfy them.—Brooklyn Eagle.

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